



H.R. 2627 – Act Commemorating the LITE, or Lifetime Innovations of Thomas Edison

FLOOR SITUATION

H.R. 2627 is being considered on the House floor under suspension of the rules and will require a two-thirds majority vote for passage. This legislation was introduced by Representative Donald Payne (D-NJ) on October 9, 2007. The bill was sent to the House Committee on Natural Resources but was never considered.

H.R. 2627 is expected to be considered on the House floor on November 13, 2007.

** Note – Similar legislation (H.R. 1096) was introduced in the 109th Congress by Representative Scott Garret (D-NJ). It passed with a vote of 399-1.*

SUMMARY

H.R. 2627 establishes the Thomas Edison National Historical Park, in West Orange, New Jersey, as a unit of the National Park System.

The Legislation authorizes the Secretary to acquire land or interests in land within the boundaries of the Historical Park, from willing sellers only, by donation, purchase with donated or appropriated funds, or exchange.

BACKGROUND

The National Park Service, in its General Management Plan and Development Concept Plan, identified the need for numerous actions to preserve, protect, restore, and enhance the Site and determined that sufficient government funds are not likely to be appropriated to complete these necessary actions in the foreseeable future.

The Site contains the world's largest collection of materials related to Thomas Edison, encompassing an estimated 5,000,000 pages of documents, over 400,000 artifacts, approximately 35,000 sound recordings, and 10,000 books from Edison's personal library.

Thomas Edison was considered one of the most prolific inventors in history. Edison's major innovation was the first industrial research lab, located in Menlo Park, New Jersey. He held 1,093 patents throughout his life and developed the first phonograph, a practical incandescent electric light, and numerous other inventions.

COST

At the time of publication the Congressional Budget Office (CBO) had not yet scored the legislation.

STAFF CONTACT

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